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No Contract Breach by Powers Is Found by U.S. Inquiry So Far

**President Reports on Inquiry
Headed by Prettyman—
\$50,000 Pay at Stake**

By JOHN D. MORRIS
Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Feb. 20—

A special board of inquiry headed by E. Barrett Prettyman, a former Federal Judge, is seeking to determine whether Francis Gary Powers fulfilled his contract with the Central Intelligence Agency and is entitled to about \$50,000 in back pay.

President Kennedy, reporting this today, said that so far "there is no evidence" that the U-2 pilot had failed to comply with the secret contract. He said he would make "a more final judgment" at his news conference next week.

The special board, consisting of "outstanding citizens," will complete its inquiry by the middle of next week and Mr. Powers then will be available to Congress and the press for questioning, Mr. Kennedy added.

"Mr. Powers has been cooperating fully," the President remarked.

The pilot of the high-altitude reconnaissance plane, downed in the Soviet Union May 1, 1960, has been under questioning by Federal intelligence agents and, presumably, by the



Judge E. Barrett Prettyman

Prettyman board at an undisclosed site since his return to the United States Feb. 10.

He was exchanged on the Berlin border for a Soviet espionage agent, Col. Rudolf I. Abel, who had been convicted by the United States.

Mr. Powers testified at his trial in Moscow Aug. 17 his C. I. A. salary was \$2,500 a month, part of which was to be "held back and paid on successful completion of the contract."

back, he said, by his test at It is understood that pay held in Moscow, plus the accumulation of \$2,500 monthly since the pilot's capture, amounts to well in excess of \$50,000. Presumably Mr. Powers could be deprived of all or part of it if the inquiry board found he had violated his contract.

Speculation on Terms

There has been speculation over whether the contract called for the 32-year-old Mr. Powers to destroy the plane if downed in Soviet territory and to avoid capture at all costs. Questions have also been raised over whether he went beyond the contract in telling the Soviet court that convicted him as much as he did about his job as a flying spy.

Government officials have reported that no criminal charges are under consideration. One manifestation of Mr. Powers' willingness to cooperate in the inquiry, according to a State Department spokesman, was that he volunteered to take a lie-detector test. There was no word on whether such a test actually had been administered.

It is understood that Mr. Powers has told United States intelligence agents substantially the same story he gave at the Moscow trial. Little additional knowledge has been obtained on the crucial question of how the Lockheed-built U-2 was brought down 1,200 miles inside the Soviet Union.

Soviet Reports Doubted

Experts here are inclined to question Soviet reports that the plane was shot down by a rocket fired from the ground while it was flying at an altitude of about 68,000 feet. In his court testimony, Mr. Powers did not say that he had been shot down. He testified that his plane began falling after a "hollow-sounding explosion" accompanied by an orange-colored flash behind him.

President Kennedy, at his news conference, did not identify other members of the Prettyman board or say how many there were (Question 11 Page 10.) A White House spokesman declined to do so later.

Judge Prettyman retired Oct. 31, 1960 as Chief Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia. He has taken several judicial assignments in retirement. In addition, as head of a Presidential study group called the Administrative Conference, he submitted a number of recommendations last December to reform the procedures of Federal regulatory agencies.

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